

HOUSE RESOLUTION 136
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Douglass Family Gospel Singers and to congratulate them on their 31st anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this body should pause to honor those special persons who excel at making music, thus providing endless hours of enjoyment and inspiration, and who through their outstanding accomplishments in the music industry have established a legacy that others can only hope to emulate; and

WHEREAS, once in a great while, there comes along a group of persons who through their unlimited capacity for love, richness of spirit and faith in God, dedicate themselves to touching and shaping lives, thereby helping to build a better and brighter world; and

WHEREAS, the Douglass Family Gospel Singers, comprise one such special group of persons who, through their enormous talents and tremendous skills, have become America's premier Gospel Choir; and

WHEREAS, by means of their gifts and hard work, the Douglass Family Gospel Singers have maintained their singing flavor since their beginnings in 1959;

WHEREAS, they made their debut at the New Ebenezer AME Zion Church in Harriman, then began traveling to various parts of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, the group was founded by their parents, Charles and Lillie Mae Douglass; the children continue their vision; they recently released their first tape "Jesus Can" and just celebrated their 31st annual anniversary in early December, 1997; and

WHEREAS, two of the singers work in the pastoral phase of the ministry, but all of them are active in their local churches and are born again Christians; and

WHEREAS, the group members are Pianist, Lead Singer, and fifth - Margie Moore; Lead singer, and baritone – Glenda Copeland; Lead singer, and alto – Ivory Dowdell; Evangelist and Assistant Pastor, lead singer, and tenor – Willie Mae Springs of the Believers Voice of Deliverance Church; Brother, Lead Guitarist – Rev. Alvin Douglass, pastor of Bazeltown Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, it is rare that a profession is blessed with such a remarkable, hard-working and gifted group of people as the Douglass Gospel Singers; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor the Douglass Family Gospel Singers for their dedication and commitment to the growth and development of gospel music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate the Douglass Family Gospel Singers upon an outstanding legacy of 31 years in song and word.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.